AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

receiving an input signal associated with a virtual touch at a communication device, the communication device including a user-interface member and an actuator;

outputting a request at the communication device, the request relating to a contact with a the user-interface member coupled to a handheld communication device to receive the virtual touch; and

providing a control signal associated with the contact to an the actuator coupled to the handheld communication device in response to the contact with the user-interface member, the control signal configured to cause the actuator to output a haptic effect associated with the virtual touch at the user-interface member.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising extracting a haptic code from the input signal, the control signal being based at least in part on the haptic code.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user-interface member includes one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen, a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick, a trackball, and a knob.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the virtual touch is associated with one of a handshake, a high-five, a pat on the back, a pulse sensation, a heartbeat sensation, and a pet purring sensation.

5.   (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

receiving a virtual touch indicator and a virtual touch signal at a communication device;

performing an initialization responsive to the virtual touch indicator on a handheld communication device; and

~~receiving a virtual touch signal associated with the initialization; and~~

outputting a control signal associated with the virtual touch signal to an actuator coupled to the handheld communication device after performing the initialization.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the actuator is configured to output a haptic effect to a user-interface member coupled to the handheld communication device.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the user-interface member includes one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen, a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick, a trackball, and a knob.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the initialization includes outputting a request relating to a contact with the user-interface member.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the virtual touch signal is associated with a

manipulation of a remote user-interface member.

10.   (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium containing executable

instructions which cause a data processing system to perform a method, the method

comprisingon which is encoded program code, comprising:

program code for receiving an input signal associated with a virtual touch at a

communication device, the communication device including a user-interface member and an

actuator;

program code for outputting a request at the communication device, the request relating

to a contact with a the user-interface member to receive the virtual touchcoupled to a handheld

communication device; and

program code for providing a control signal in response to the contact with the user-

interface memberassociated with the contact to an the actuator coupled to the handheld

communication device, the control signal configured to cause the actuator to output a haptic

effect associated with virtual touch at the user-interface member.

11.   (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10 further

comprising extracting a haptic code from the input signal, the control signal being based at least

in part on the haptic code.

12.   (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10 wherein the

virtual touch is associated with one of a handshake, a high-five, a pat on the back, a pulse

sensation, a heartbeat sensation, and a pet purring sensation.

13. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium containing executable

instructions which cause a data processing system to perform a method, the method

comprisingon which is encoded program code, comprising:

    program code for receiving a virtual touch indicator and a virtual touch signal;

    program code for performing an initialization responsive to the virtual touch indicator on

a handheld communication device; and

    program code for receiving a virtual touch signal associated with the initialization; and

    program code for outputting a control signal associated with the virtual touch signal to an

actuator after performing the initialization.

14. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein the

actuator is configured to output a haptic effect to a user-interface member coupled to the

handheld communication device.

15. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 14 wherein the

user-interface member includes one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen,

a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick, a trackball, and a knob.

16. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein the

initialization includes outputting a request relating to a contact with the user-interface member.

17 - 18.   (Canceled)

19.   (Currently amended)   ~~The~~ An apparatus, comprising:

a user-interface member coupled to a body;

a processor;

an actuator coupled to the body and in communication with the processor; and

a memory in communication with the processor, the memory storing ~~program~~

~~code~~instructions executable by the processor, including:

    instructions~~program code~~ for receiving an input signal associated with a virtual

touch at the apparatus;

    instructions~~program code~~ for outputting a request relating to a contact with the

user-interface member to receive the virtual touch; and

    instructions~~program code~~ for providing a control signal associated with the

contact to the actuator, the control signal configured to cause the actuator to output a

haptic effect associated with the virtual touch at the user-interface member.

20.   (Original)   The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the body is included in a handheld

communication device.

21.   (Original)   The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the handheld communication device

includes one of a cellular phone, a satellite phone, a cordless phone, a personal digital assistant, a

pager, a two-way radio, a portable computer, a game console controller, a personal gaming

device, and an MP3 player.

22.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the user-interface member includes at least

one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen, a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick,

a trackball, and a knob.

23.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the virtual touch is associated with one of a

handshake, a high-five, a pat on the back, a pulse sensation, a heartbeat sensation, and a pet

purring sensation.

24.   (Currently amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus, comprising:

        a user-interface member;

        a processor;

        an actuator coupled to ~~the~~ a user-interface member and in communication with the

processor; and

        a memory in communication with the processor, the memory storing instructions~~program~~

~~code~~ executable by the processor, including:

                instructions~~program code~~ for receiving a virtual touch indicator and a virtual

        touch signal;

                instructions~~program code~~ for performing an initialization responsive to the virtual

touch indicator;

~~program code for receiving a virtual touch signal associated with the initialization~~; and

<u>instructions</u>~~program code~~ for outputting a control signal associated with the virtual touch signal to the actuator<u> after performing the initialization</u>.

25.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the user-interface member is coupled to a handheld communication device.

26.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the handheld communication device includes one of a cellular phone, a satellite phone, a cordless phone, a personal digital assistant, a pager, a two-way radio, a portable computer, a game console controller, a personal gaming device, and an MP3 player.

27.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the user-interface member includes at least one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen, a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick, a trackball, and a knob.

28.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the virtual touch signal is associated with a manipulation of a remote user-interface member.

29.   (New) The method of claim 5 wherein the virtual touch indicator is one or more of a

haptic code or a message.

30.   (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein the virtual touch

indicator is one or more of a haptic code or a message.